

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-06

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN, CASC, SHIPPING AND SEAMEN
SUBJECT: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR U.S. MERCHANT SEAMEN

REF: STATE 131961

1. CONGEN GREATLY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT'S HELPFUL RESPONSE.

2. RE PARA 2 REFTTEL, BELIEVE BEST WAY TO PROCEED IS TO PROVIDE LIST OF APPROVED DOCTORS AND PREFERRED HOSPITAL FOR GENERAL CARE, I.E. AL-MOUASSAT. UNFORTUNATELY NONE OF THE HOSPITALS, IN MY OPINION, IS UP TO U.S. STANDARDS. NEVERTHELESS, IN SOME CASES WHERE IMMEDIATE ACTION HAS BEEN NECESSARY, SERIOUSLY INJURED SEAMEN HAVE BEEN GIVEN VERY GOOD, EVEN EXPERT, SURGERY IN OTHER HOSPITALS, E.G. ALEXANDRIA UNIV. HOSPITAL, AND HAVE RECOVERED. PROBLEM IS USUALLY POST OPERATIONAL CARE, AND WE LIKE TO MOVE PATIENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO AL-MOUASSET, THEN REPATRIATE THEM AS SOON AS THEY ARE ABLE TO TRAVEL. WHERE IMMEDIATE SURGERY OR TREATMENT IS NOT NECESSARY WE PREFER SEND SEAMEN TO U.S. FOR TREATMENT AS SOON AS HE IS ABLE TO TRAVEL. AS LONG AS CONGEN DOCTOR IS IN CONTROL OF THE CASE, WE CAN NORMALLY ACCOMPLISH THIS, ASSUMING ALWAYS THAT THE SEAMAN CONCERNED SO DESIRES.

3. APPRECIATE YOUR NOT SUPPLYING NAME OF DR. SERAFY TO UNIONS AS HE IS NOT THE ONLY DOCTOR HERE WHO CAUSES US PROBLEMS. BELIEVE WE SHOULD AVOID SINGLING OUT BAD DOCTORS, BUT PROVIDE UNCLASSIFIED

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NAMES OF DOCTORS APPROVED INSTEAD.

4. CONCUR THAT SHIPPING FIRMS SHOULD PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS TO AGENTS RE REPATRIATION OF SEAMEN FOR MEDICAL CARE. CONGEN HAS NEVER TRIED TO SUBSTITUTE ITS VIEWS FOR MEDICAL OPINION; WE CONCERNED ONLY TO OBTAIN BEST POSSIBLE MEDICAL OPINION. IF WE SEE FAIRLY FLAGRANT CASE, HOWEVER, WE MAY SUGGEST REPATRIATION,

LEAVING IT TO SHIP'S CAPTAIN TO DECIDE. ASSUME YOU HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THIS. APPRECIATE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO POST REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE, ALTHOUGH DO NOT BELIEVE THIS WILL BE NECESSARY IN GREAT MAJORITY OF CASES.

5. RE PARA 4, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT OTHER MAJOR SHIPPING COUNTRIES HAVE SIMILAR PROBLEM, BUT I WOULD PREFER TO TRY APPROACH VIA AMERICAN COMPANIES FIRST. IF THIS TACTIC DOES NOT WORK, WE SHOULD CONSIDER OTHERS BUT APPROACH TO THE APPROPRIATE MINISTRY MIGHT WELL EMBROIL US IN PORT AND LOCAL MEDICAL POLITICS AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT NOT PROVIDE DESIRED RESULTS.

6. CONGEN IS REVIEWING AND UPDATING ITS DOCTOR'S LIST AND WILL POUCH IT TO DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MCCLELLAND

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